

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /179 W

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P R 121210Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4305

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REVIEW, NOVEMBER 11-12

1. CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. NOVEMBER 12 CAIRO PRESS REPORTS SIGNING OF EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT ON NOVEMBER 11 UNDER UN AUSPICES. NOTICEABLY LACKING IS ANY MENTION THAT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI REPS. IN EACH OTHER'S PRESENCE. MOREOVER, ALL PAPERS REPORT THAT CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE RETURN OF ISRAELI FORCES TO THE OCTOBER 22 POSITIONS. AHRAH ADDS, "THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE THE FIRST IMPLEMENTING STEPS OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 339 OF 1973, AND OF UNSC RESOLUTION 242 OF 1967, WHICH REQUIRES THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES." PRESS RUNS ARTICLES WITH TEL AVIV DATELINES SHOWING ISRAELI OPPOSITION (PRIMARILY LIKUD) TO CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT.

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2. AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL. ALL PAPERS NOTE AMBASSADOR EILTS' ARRIVAL. AHRAH HAS PHOTO WHILE AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA REPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT GIVEN TO PRESS AT AIRPORT. PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT AMBASSADOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 11.

3. PRESS REPORTS, WITH FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS, MEETING BETWEEN SADAT AND YASSER ARAFAT ON NOVEMBER 11 IN COMPANY OF FATAH MEMBER HAIL ABDEL HAMID. AHRAH REPORTS ARAFAT HAD PLANNED TO FLY TO MOSCOW FROM JIDDA ON NOVEMBER 10, BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT DECIDED TO PASS THROUGH CAIRO BEFORE TRAVELING TO SOVIET UNION.

4. SECRETARY'S TALKS IN CAIRO. ROSE AL-YOUSSEF STATES THAT DURING TALKS IN CAIRO, SECRETARY DEALT WITH (A) CEASEFIRE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS, PARTICULARLY "THE PARAGRAPH CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF BELLIGERENT FORCES TO THE OCTOBER 22 LINES;" (B) SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES OF OCTOBER WAR, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNING EXCHANGE OF POW'S AND BAB EL-MANDAB BLOCKADE; AND (C) ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE CALLED FOR BY SADAT. REGARDING DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO RESUME RELATIONS, ROSE SAYS THAT FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS WERE BEHIND THE DECISION: (A) QUESTION WAS RAISED DURING PERIOD OF ROGERS' INITIATIVE, BUT WAS FROZEN BY EGYPT BECAUSE OF US INACTION; KISSINGER'S VISIT NOW PROVES THAT US IS TAKING A "POSITIVE ATTITUDE;" (B) ARAB CAPITALS AND MOSCOW, WHICH WAS "ON THE TOP OF THE LIST," WERE INFORMED OF EGYPT'S DECISION BEFOREHAND; (C) "DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DO NOT MEAN THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN (US AND EGYPT) SERVE COMMON INTERESTS, BUT AIM AT NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR DIVERGENT VIEWS."

5. HEYKAL. IN NOVEMBER 11 ARTICLE, HEYKAL FOCUSES ON PREPARATION NECESSARY PRIOR TO PEACE CONFERENCE, WHICH HE SAYS WILL PROBABLY BE HELD IN GENEVA EARLY IN SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER. HE NOTES THAT PEACE IS STILL FAR AWAY. HE QUOTES SECRETARY KISSINGER AS HAVING TOLD HIM THAT PATIENCE IS NECESSARY AND THAT AT LEAST SIX MONTHS--AND PERHAPS A YEAR--WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE A BEGINNING TOWARD PEACE CAN BE MADE. HEYKAL SAYS HE RETAINS HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STAND TOWARD CRISIS, AND ADDS THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE PRESIDENT NIXON CAN HANDLE ZIONIST PRESSURE GROUPS IN US. HE SAYS THAT ISRAEL IS STILL PLAYING FOR TIME IN ORDER TO REORGANIZE HERSELF; AND THAT SHE WILL RAISE IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS AND PROCEDURAL COMPLICATIONS IN ORDER TO GAIN TIME NECESSARY TO RECOVER. HEYKAL THEN SAYS THAT COMING ARAB SUMMIT MUST LAY DOWN STRATEGY OF JOINT ARAB ACTION TO CONFRONT THIS CHALLENGE. THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF HIS STRATEGY

WOULD BE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED
IN 1967, AND THE RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINE
"THROUGH THEIR LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES." LONG-TERM
OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE LEFT FOR ANOTHER MEETING. HEYKAL
CONTINUES THAT ARAB SUMMIT MUST FOCUS ON MOBILIZATION OF
MILITARY FORCES, AND PLACEMENT OF THESE FORCES ON THE
BATTLEFIELD, BEFORE THE NEXT BATTLE. EGYPT WOULD ALSO
ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP OF A JOINT ARAB MILITARY AND POLITICAL
COMMAND. HEYKAL ADDS THAT THERE SHOULD BE CONTINUED CONTACT
WITH AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN STATES, TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE
ON ISRAEL. HE CONCLUDES THAT A SUMMIT CONFERENCE IS NECESSARY;
THAT DIPLOMACY WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF THE WAR BY OTHER
MEANS; AND HE REITERATES THAT NO ONE SHOULD TRUST US'S
ABILITY TO MOVE ISRAEL.
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